UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council permits export of 12,000 vials of diphtheria anti-serum from Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, citing major resurgence of disease.

+ Security Council welcomes inauguration of Mozambique's President and National Assembly, saying peace, stability and democracy can now be secured; notes termination of ONUMOZ mandate.

+ UNAMIR moves large force into two camps for displaced persons in south-west Rwanda to prevent destabilization by former military elements.

+ General Assembly expected to admit Palau as 185th Member State of United Nations tomorrow.

+ Secretary-General decides to transmit report on Burundi events of October 1993 to Bujumbura in light of recent political developments.

+ Cooperation between United Nations and Organization of the Islamic Conference is essential for peace and development, Secretary-General says.

+ Economic and Financial Committee approves draft resolutions on Agenda for Development, debt reduction, and sustainable development in developing countries.

+ Chilean investigator to announce decision in Carmelo Soria murder inquiry; Secretary-General expresses hope case will be resolved, citing United Nations demands for justice.

+ UNFPA convenes high-level meeting with view to speeding implementation of Population and Development Conference recommendations in Africa.

+ ICJ resumes consideration of maritime delimitation and territorial questions between Qatar and Bahrain.

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For information media—not an official record

The Security Council today decided to permit the export of 12,000 vials of diphtheria anti-serum from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for a period of thirty days. It thus provided an exemption from the provisions of resolution 757 (1992), which imposed sanctions on that country. The Council took that action, under Chapter VII of the Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 967 (1994).

The Council noted that there had been a major resurgence of diphtheria, and that the only available stocks of anti-serum were located in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It said any payments for the authorized shipments should be made only into frozen accounts.

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The Security Council today welcomed the inauguration of Joaquim Chissano as President of Mozambique and the inauguration of the new National Assembly following the country's first multi-party elections in October. The elections were declared free and fair and endorsed by the Council on 21 November. In a statement read out by its President, Manzi Bakuramutsa (Rwanda), the Council congratulated Mozambique's people and parties for their peaceful fulfilment of the goals set out in the General Peace Agreement. It expressed confidence that the country would now secure lasting peace, stability, national reconciliation and democracy.

The Council noted that the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) had come to an end, and that the Operation would be finally withdrawn by 31 January 1995. It looked forward to the Secretary-General's report on the final disposition of ONUMOZ's assets within the framework of the withdrawal. It also expressed the hope that effective arrangements for the destruction of weapons and the establishment, with the assistance of the United Nations, of a national demining capability would be in place prior to the final withdrawal.

The Council emphasized that the post-election period would be an important and delicate time, during which there would be a continuing need for international assistance for reconstruction and redevelopment in Mozambique. It urged all States and relevant international organizations to provide such assistance.

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The United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) this morning moved a force of 1,500 peace-keepers into two camps housing displaced persons in the south-west of the country, according to a spokesman for the Organization. It took that action because elements of the former government's army and militia had been operating in the camps, causing instability in the region. Some 60 people had been killed there in the last month.

The new Rwandan Government had announced its intention to close the camps by the end of the year, using force if necessary. However, UNAMIR had prevailed on it to avoid unilateral action, the spokesman said. Government

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troops formed a perimeter around the camps while the UNAMIR peace-keepers deployed today. Around 30 people were detained in the presence of human rights monitors, and registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

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The General Assembly is tomorrow expected to admit Palau as the 185th Member State of the United Nations. The President of Palau, Kuniwo Nakamura, will address the Assembly following that action. He will later attend the flag-raising ceremony marking his country's admission.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to transmit to the Government of Burundi the report by Ambassadors Siméon Aké (Côte d'Ivoire) and Martin Hûslid (Norway) on the events of October 1993 in Burundi. He took that decision in the light of political developments connected with the signing of the Convention of Government on 10 September 1994, the election of a President on 30 September 1994 and the formation of a new Government on 5 October 1994. This report will be transmitted to President Ntibantunganya shortly by the Secretary-General.

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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is essential in the areas of peace and development, according to the Secretary-General. He said that the United Nations could not single-handedly deal with all the world's problems, and that it needed the support and cooperation of all regional organizations. He made those comments, in French, in a message to the OIC Summit in Casablanca yesterday.

In its efforts to resolve the crises afflicting Africa, the United Nations enjoyed the full support of the OIC, as well as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the League of Arab States, the Secretary-General continued. Close cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations was particularly evident in Somalia. The Organization was also receiving support from OIC countries in the field in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Secretary-General recalled that he had invited regional organizations to consider, together with senior officials of the United Nations, ways of ensuring peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes more effectively. He stressed that he remained open to any proposals the OIC might wish to make in that regard.

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The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) has approved a draft resolution calling for continued work early next year on the elaboration of an action-oriented, comprehensive Agenda for Development. The draft -- one of eight approved by the Committee without a vote yesterday -- would have the General Assembly establish an ad hoc open-ended working group for that purpose.

By another draft, the Assembly would call on the international community to address the debt problems of developing countries in the elaboration of An Agenda for Development. It would recognize that a durable solution of the debt problems of the poorest countries suggested even more favourable terms of debt-relief measures, including a reduction of debt stock.

Also approved was a draft resolution calling for increased efforts to ensure the flow of substantial resources for sustained economic growth and sustainable development in developing countries. That draft stressed that developing and developed countries should strive towards a true partnership, including ownership and broad-based participation in recipient countries.

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The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has convened a high-level meeting at Headquarters to make recommendations to speed implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. The meeting is being attended by government officials from sub-Saharan Africa and family-planning experts from the public and private sectors. It is part of a series of regional consultations being conducted by the UNFPA as follow-up to the Cairo Conference.

Among the topics to be discussed at the two-day meeting are Africa and the Cairo Programme of Action; problems and priorities of Africa; and strategies for increasing political and legislative commitment and support to population programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. The Cairo Programme contains a set of 20-year goals which include reducing current levels of infant and maternal mortality; making family planning universally available; and increasing education levels, especially for girls. The Programme also calls for follow-up by international agencies, governments and non-governmental organizations.

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The Chilean Supreme Court Justice in charge of the case of Carmelo Soria, a staff member of the Economic Commission for Latin America who was murdered in Chile in 1976, will soon announce his decision, the Secretary-General announced today. He expressed the hope that the decision would facilitate a resolution of the case. He recalled that the United Nations had always taken an active interest in the outcome of the investigation, and had demanded that justice be done.

The Organization's interest in the case was motivated by its right and duty under the Charter to protect its staff members, the Secretary-General said. He noted that the investigating Judge, in a decision dated 30 December 1993, had found that Mr. Soria's death was an act of homicide. According to the Judge's findings, Mr. Soria had been detained on 4 July 1976 by military personnel belonging to the military secret police. He had subsequently been interrogated, tortured and murdered by his captors.

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has said it is resuming consideration of maritime delimitation and territorial questions between Qatar and Bahrain, after both countries indicated their willingness to submit the whole of their dispute to the Court.

In July, the ICJ issued a judgement that Qatar and Bahrain had entered into international agreements by which they had undertaken to submit their dispute to the Court. Those agreements consisted of exchanges of letters between the King of Saudi Arabia and the Amir of Qatar in December 1987, and a document signed at Doha in December 1990 by the Foreign Ministers of Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, containing the "Bahraini formula".

In its judgement, however, the ICJ indicated that since the question was before it only through an application filed by Qatar in 1991 that set forth that country's claim alone, the Court was not seized of the entire dispute as provided by the international agreement of 1990. The Court thus decided to give the parties the opportunity to submit the whole of their dispute by 30 November 1994. On that date, the Court received communications from Qatar and Bahrain accepting its July judgement and its jurisdiction over the dispute. A new judgement is expected as soon as possible.

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